

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17403 01 OF 02 251707Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05
/104 W
-----050339 251719Z /43

P 251652Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4742
INFO USDOE WASHDC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 17403

USDOE FOR GOLDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, SOPN, US, UR
SUBJECT: AIF SPONSORED VISIT TO SOVIET NUCLEAR
FACILITIES BY US JOURNALISTS

REF: MOSCOW 718

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOR ALMOST A YEAR THE
ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM (AIF) HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING
TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TO
SOVIET NUCLEAR FACILITIES. THEY HAVE BEEN USING
VARIOUS CHANNELS INCLUDING THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON AND THE US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC
COUNCIL IN MOSCOW. PUSTYNTSEV OF THE STATE
COMMITTEE FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY
(SCAE) INFORMED SCICOUNS IN JANUARY THAT THE
SOVIET EMBASSY HAD TRANSMITTED THIS REQUEST TO
THE SCAE. HE FELT IT WOULD BE BEST TO ARRANGE
TRIP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY
AGREEMENT DURING A JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN THE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17403 01 OF 02 251707Z

SOVIET UNION. (REPORTED REFTEL)

2. EVIDENTLY AIF HAS PUSHED AHEAD ON ITS OWN.
EMBASSY RECEIVED A TELEX JULY 21 FROM
AIF TO SCAE (TEXT PROVIDED PARA 4 BELOW) SEEKING
CONFIRMATION OF ITINERARY. SCICOUNS DELIVERED
TELEX AS REQUESTED JULY 24. VASILIEV OF SCAE

FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT SAID THEY WERE IN PRINCIPLE AGREED TO THE VISIT, BUT NEEDED TO GET APPROVAL FOR EACH OF THE FACILITIES REQUESTED. HE NOTED THAT VERY FEW OF THE FACILITIES WERE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SCAE; IN PARTICULAR THE ATOMMASH FACILITY AND THE LENINGRAD POWER STATION WERE OPERATED BY OTHER MINISTRIES. HE WANTED MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT AIF WANTED TO VISIT IN NOVOSIBIRSK. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES IN INCLUDING THESE STOPS IN THE ITINERARY. HE PROMISED MORE INFORMATION AT THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT PASS ABOVE INFO TO AIF SOONEST. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT AIF USE EMBASSY AS MAIN COMMUNICATION CHANNEL ON VISIT. VASILIEV INDICATED THAT SOVIETS WOULD ALSO PREFER THIS. EMBASSY WILL KEEP JS-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL INFORMED AND WORK WITH THEM ON DETAILS OF ITINERARY, ONCE CONFIRMED. EMBASSY IS INTERESTED IN VISIT AND, IF AIF APPROVES, WOULD NOMINATE EMBOFF EDWARD MC GAFFIGAN TO ACCOMPANY JOURNALISTS. EMBASSY ALSO SUGGESTS AIF CONSIDER POSSIBILITY INVITING LIMITED NUMBER OF RESIDENT JS CORRESPONDENTS TO JOIN TOUR UPON ARRIVAL IN SOVIET UNION. WE NOTE AP, NBC, CBS NOT REPRESENTED ON JULY 12 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS. PLEASE ADVISE.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17403 01 OF 02 251707Z

4. TEXT OF TELEX: MR. LEV ISAYEV (SCAE): URGENTLY REQUEST THAT STATE COMMITTEE SEND TO YOUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR TO US AN ITINERARY FOR THE AIF PRESS TOUR, SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW SEPT. 20 VIA AEROFLOT. WE ARE INFORMED THAT INTOURIST CANNOT BEGIN TO MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL ITINERARY IS IN HAND. YOU CAN ALSO APPRECIATE THAT WE MUST HAVE AN AGENDA TO BY LETTER, AIF EXPECTS TO TAKE 15 SENIOR JOURNALISTS ON A SUBSTANTIVE TOUR OF SOVIET FACILITIES, INCLUDING BN-600 BREEDER, SHEVCHENKO BREEDER, ATOMMASH FACTORY, THE LIGHT-WATER REACTOR COMPLEX NEAR LENINGRAD, OBNINSK RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AND NOVOSIBIRSK. ALSO VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE SIDE TRIP FROM LENINGRAD TO FINLAND TO SEE LOVIISA NUCLEAR STATION. WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU QICKLY AS WE CANNOT PROCEED JNTIL AGENDA IS PREPARED. WARM REGARDS, CARL WALSKE, AIF. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: AIF HAS NOT HANDLED THIS PROPOSED VISIT WELL. THEY HAVE USED MULTIPLE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION LEADING TO SOME CONFUSION ON THE SCAE'S PART. AIF APPARENTLY STILL HAS NOTHING IN WRITING FROM THE SOVIETS ON

THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE VISIT. THEY SEEM UNAWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES SOVIETS HAVE IN COORDINATING AMONG MINISTRIES. AIF HAS ALSO NOT DONE ITS HOMEWORK ON SOVIET NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. (VASILIEV WAS BEMUSED AT REFERENCE IN TELEX TO LIGHT-WATER REACTORS AT LENINGRAD. IN FACT THOSE REACTORS ARE GRAPHITE MODERATED). VISIT, IF IT TAKES PLACE, MAY BE MUCH MORE MODEST ENDEAVOR THAN AIF INTENDS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 17403

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